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a first set time interval T_1 , which is parallel to the motion vector $MV1$ at the second set time interval T_2 and different in magnitude from the motion vector $MV1$ at the second set time interval T_2 by a value determined by $MV1 \cdot T_1/T_2$; and

- (c) calculating the motion compensation of the input image from both of (i) the motion vector $MV1$ between the input image and said one reference image and (ii) the motion vector $MV2$ between the at least two reference images of the plurality of reference images.] 10

[2. A method of determining motion compensation for an input image from a motion vector between the input image and a plurality of reference images, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) detecting a motion vector $MV1$ between the input image and one reference image $R1$ of said plurality of reference images at a second set time interval T_2 ; 15
- (b) providing a motion vector $MV3$ between the reference image $R1$ and another reference image $R2$ of said plurality of reference images at a first set time interval T_1 , said motion vector $MV3$ being parallel to the motion vector $MV1$ and different in magnitude from the motion vector $MV1$ by a value determined by $MV1 \cdot T_1/T_2$; 20
- (c) obtaining a motion vector $MV2$ between the input image and the another reference image $R2$ at a third set time interval T_3 from a sum of the motion vector $MV1$ and the motion vector $MV3$, and calculating respective pixels corresponding to the motion vector $MV1$ and the motion vector $MV2$ from pixels of the reference image $R1$ and the reference image $R2$ corresponding to the motion vector $MV1$ and the motion vector $MV2$ or from pixels positioned peripherally of the pixels of the reference image $R1$ and the reference image $R2$; and 25 30

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- (d) calculating motion-compensated pixel values from the calculated pixels of the reference images.]

[3. A method of obtaining a motion-compensated image from a motion vector between the motion-compensated image and a plurality of reference images, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) obtaining a motion vector $MV1$ between the motion-compensated image and one reference image $R1$ of said plurality of reference images at a second set time interval T_2 ;
- (b) providing a motion vector $MV3$ between the reference image $R1$ and another reference image $R2$ of said plurality of reference images at a first set time interval T_1 , which is parallel to the motion vector $MV1$ and different in magnitude from the motion vector $MV1$ by a value determined by $MV1 \cdot T_1/T_2$;
- (c) obtaining a motion vector $MV2$ between the motion-compensated image and said another reference image $R2$ at a third set time interval T_3 from a sum of the motion vector $MV1$ and the motion vector $MV3$, and calculating respective pixels corresponding to the motion vector $MV1$ and the motion vector $MV2$ from pixels of the reference image $R1$ and the reference image $R2$ corresponding to the motion vector $MV1$ and the motion vector $MV2$ or from pixels positioned peripherally of the pixels of the reference image $R1$ and the reference image $R2$; and
- (d) calculating motion-compensated pixel values from the calculated pixels of the reference images to obtain the motion-compensated image.]

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4. A method of obtaining a motion-compensated image, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a first motion vector MV1 between the motion-compensated image and one reference image R1 of a plurality of reference images at a second set time interval T2 between the motion-compensated image and said one reference image R1;

(b) calculating a second motion vector MV2 between the motion-compensated image and another reference image R2 of said plurality of reference images at a first set time interval T1 between the motion-compensated image and said another reference image R2, said second motion vector MV2 being parallel to said first motion vector MV1 and having a magnitude satisfying the relation $MV2 = MV1 \cdot (T1/T2)$;

(c) calculating first pixel values of said one reference image R1 from pixels which are neighbors of positions corresponding to said first motion vector MV1 and calculating second pixel values of said another reference image R2 from pixels which are neighbors of positions corresponding to said second motion vector MV2, wherein said reference images R1 and R2 are such that a motion vector MV3 between said reference images R1 and R2 has a mathematical relationship with said first and second motion vectors MV1 and MV2 in which said motion vector MV3 is parallel to and different in value from each of said first and second motion vectors MV1 and MV2; and

(d) calculating motion-compensated pixel values of said motion-compensated image from said first and second pixel values calculated in step (c) to obtain said motion-compensated image.

5. A method of obtaining a motion-compensated image, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a first motion vector MV1 between the motion-compensated image and one reference image R1 of a plurality of reference images at a second set time interval T2 between the motion-compensated image and said one reference image R1;

(b) calculating a second motion vector MV2 between the motion-compensated image and another reference image R2 of said plurality of reference images at a first set time interval T1 between the motion-compensated image and said another reference image R2, said second motion vector MV2

being parallel to said first motion vector MV1 and having a magnitude satisfying the relation $MV2 = MV1 \cdot (T1/T2)$;

(c) calculating first pixel values of said one reference image R1 from pixels which are neighbors of positions corresponding to said first motion vector MV1 and calculating second pixel values of said another reference image R2 from pixels which are neighbors of positions corresponding to said second motion vector MV2, wherein said reference images R1 and R2 are previous to said motion-compensated image in a time sequence; and

(d) calculating motion-compensated pixel values of said motion-compensated image from said first and second pixel values calculated in step (c) to obtain said motion-compensated image.

6. A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein said reference images R1 and R2 are previous to said motion-compensated image in a time sequence.